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Korea. By ANGUS HAMILTON. Pp. xliv, 313. Maps and Illustrations. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1904.

Mr. Hamilton's book on Korea gives much information about that country. The author shows intimate knowledge of the country and people, describes their customs, pageants, cities and scenery and tells the reader the things he is most likely to wish to know. The style is good, and the book seems to have been carefully written. The foreign trade is keenly analyzed and the political rivalry of Russia and Japan is sketched up to the outbreak of the war.

The country is beautiful to look upon and its beauty is appreciated by the people who are described as well built and showing mixture of Caucasian and Mongolian blood. Plodding like his ox, the native lives by agriculture and household industry in the house of the farmer. Reforms have been made in the government, but "justice is still hedged about with bribery" and "immunity from the demands of the yamen is only found in a condition of extreme poverty." Political efficiency is reflected by the navy, containing twenty-three admirals and having one iron built coal lighter, until quite lately the property of a Japanese steamship company. "Korea is the helpless, hopeless sport of Japanese caprice and Russian lust." The book contains a surprising account of the progress of isolated Korea. The land of morning calm has been "stimulated by association with the Japanese. The contact has been wholly beneficial." The change is almost as noticeable as in Japan and is evidenced by the growth of Chemulpo since its opening as a treaty port. In the twenty years that have elapsed it has risen from a fishing village to a prosperous port, having 20,000 people, a prosperous trade, a liberal supply of telephone and telegraph and a railway to the capital which is using electric lights and street cars.

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University of Pennsylvania.

A History of Matrimonial Institutions. By GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD. Three volumes of 1465 pages. Price, \$10.00. Chicago: University Press. 1904.

One of the most valuable contributions to sociological literature that has appeared in a long time is "A History of Matrimonial Institutions," by Prof. George Elliott Howard of the University of Chicago. The work is valuable not merely because of the importance of the subject, but by reason of the thoroughness of treatment of which each page gives evidence. It is a remarkable piece of work and will immediately take rank as a standard authority. The author has stated his conclusions clearly and forcibly, supporting them by abundant evidence, giving at the same time place to all opposing testimony. Each chapter is prefaced by a bibliographical note, often pages in length, while footnotes with detailed references abound on nearly every page. At the last of the work is a classified bibliographical index nearly one hundred and fifty pages in length which will be of great service.

The study opens (Part I, 250 pages) with an excellent resumé of the various theories of primitive matrimonial institutions. I do not know where else to find such a lucid and masterly exposition. No distinctly new material is here presented and Professor Howard agrees in general with Westermarck. "At the

dawn of human history individual marriage prevails though the union is not always lasting. In later stages of advancement, under the influence of property, social organization, social distinctions and the motives to which they gave rise, various forms of polyandry and polygyny, make their appearance, though monogamy as the type is never superseded." He thus definitely rejects the "doctrine of universal stages of evolution through which all mankind has run." Much evidence is presented to show that in all the ages of transition from status to contract, the woman has had a far larger freedom of choice and better protection than is generally supposed.

The rest of the study is chiefly devoted to the institutions of the English speaking race in England and America, though many pages are given to Continental antecedents. Part II, *Matrimonial Institutions in England* occupies 340 pages. Here the reader passes from descriptions of early Teutonic conditions down to present conditions. The attitude of the Christian Church towards marriage and divorce is carefully traced and the service rendered by the Church in securing publicity is gratefully acknowledged. Yet it is shown that even the Reformation did not alter the English conception that marriage is civil, not sacerdotal, in character and its control has been kept in the hands of the State in spite of many periods of confusion and in spite of the evident desires of the Church. Thus in England we see the early growth of that attitude towards marriage which found such striking and seemingly rootless expression in early New England legislation.

Part III, *Matrimonial Institutions in the United States*, contains the author's most important contribution. Here is presented a mass of generally inaccessible material never before collected. This is a distinct service for which every student of social institutions will be grateful. It is doubtless needless to add that many quaint and curious customs are described and attention is called to many important, but little known, facts. The conditions in New England, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies are separately outlined. Two important chapters trace the progress of legislation on marriage and divorce from 1776 to 1903 and a digest of existing laws in all States is given.

That there is much in this legislation which is not pleasant reading and much that needs amendment today is frankly stated. Yet the author does not sympathize with the extreme views often held as to American marriage laws. On the contrary there is much to be learned from the experiments of different States. Professor Howard always keeps clearly in mind the fact that he is discussing social institutions over which organized society has full control. In spite of all divergencies we have developed an American type of marriage, *i. e.*, a civil license, an optional civil or religious celebration (save in Maryland and West Virginia where the religious ceremony is required, and civil record of the ceremony. There are some evils which are fully discussed. At present the greatest obstacle to social control is the recognition of common law marriages. This results from the fact that the "vicious mediæval distinction between validity and legality is maintained." Such a union "is thoroughly bad, involving social evils of the most dangerous character." As one result many of our laws are unclear and indefinite and need overhauling.

Throughout the study divorce is constantly considered. Here, too, the

author keeps on solid ground for, no matter what the troubles may be, "divorce is a remedy and not the disease." Prohibition of divorce then would bring no relief. "It is a very low moral sentiment which tolerates modern wife-purchase or husband-purchase for bread, title, or social position—here is a real menace to society." The remedy for this is education not statutes. "In the future educational programme sex questions must hold an honorable place . . . Domestic animals are literally better bred than human beings . . . Here the State has a function to perform. In the future much more than now, let us hope, the marriage of persons mentally delinquent or tainted by hereditary disease or crime will be legally restrained . . . Marriage will in truth be holy if it rests on the free troth-plight of equals whose love is deep enough to embrace a rational regard for the rights of posterity . . . The family will, indeed, survive; but it will be a family of a higher type. Its evolution is not yet complete."

No social student, preacher, legislator, can afford to neglect this important work.

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CARL KELSEY.

The Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell, with elucidations by Thomas Carlyle, edited by S. C. Lomas, with an introduction by C. H. Firth. 3 vols. London: Methuen & Co. 1904.

This excellent edition bears on its title page three names which need no introduction. Next to Napoleon, Cromwell has been the popular theme of the historian of the last decade, while Carlyle has had almost as great a vogue. Mr. Firth has only recently been appointed as Regius Professor of History at Oxford, and certainly no one is so well qualified to write on Cromwell.

It was one of Carlyle's early projects to write a book upon Cromwell's times, but he could never get sufficiently into the subject. In his sixth lecture on "Heroes and Hero-Worship," however, he first presented his view of the great Puritan leader, giving him his due place in history. Until then, as Carlyle himself wrote, "One Puritan, and almost he alone, our poor Cromwell, seems to hang yet on the gibbet and find no hearty apologist anywhere." In 1845 he made a second step towards the fulfillment of his original purpose in the publication of the "Letters and Speeches," and "few historical works have attained more immediate success;" three editions were called for in five years.

From the historical standpoint Carlyle's work is extremely fragmentary and incomplete. It is a commentary in Carlyle's characteristic manner on the letters and speeches of Cromwell, and as might be expected the editing is much too subjective in character to be reliable. Pains-taking in certain respects, Carlyle was much too arbitrary an editor; besides supplying missing words, breaking up long sentences and freely punctuating, he "modernized the speeches too much, allowed himself too great license in the way of emendation," and, as is well known, freely interpolated his own comments into the text. This is particularly true of the speeches, in the editing of which Carlyle was completely carried away by his imagination. The letters he left more nearly as he found them, though even here the arbitrary changes are numerous. They did not appeal so strongly to his imagination and his lack of critical acumen occasionally misled him into intro-